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FDEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR QUITTING

FBy BARRY SCHWEID

FAssociated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - ADM. BOBBY INMAN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IS RESIGNING LATE NEXT MONTH TO ENTER PRIVATE BUSINESS, CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID LATE WEDNESDAY. INMAN WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT. THE CIA REFERRED QUESTIONS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, WHICH ITSELF DECLINED ANY ANSWERS. AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS EXPECTED LATER IN THE DAY. A FOUR-STAR ADMIRAL, INMAN'S SPECIALITY IS SPACE-AGE HIGH TECHNOLOGY SURVEILLANCE. HE MOVED THROUGH A SUCCESSION OF INTELLIGENCE JOBS UNTIL HE TOOK OVER AS THE NO. 2 OFFICIAL IN THE CIA BEHIND DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY.

LAST MONTH, SEEKING TO DEFUSE A CONTROVERSY OVER DOMESTIC SPYING, INMAN TOLD THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HE BELIEVED THE CIA SHOULD LIMIT ITS WORK TO OTHER COUNTRIES. THE VICE CHAIRMAN, SEN. DANIEL MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., SAID INMAN HAD MADE CLEAR DURING THE CLOSED HEARING THAT "THE JOB OF THE CIA IS ABROAD. THE CIA HAS NO BUSINESS INVOLVING ITSELF IN DOMESTIC OPERATIONS, MUCH LESS THOSE DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS." INMAN ALSO WAS QUOTED TELLING THE NEW YORK TIMES HE WAS "DOING MY DAMNEDST" TO PREVENT "A SERIES OF REPUGNANT CHANGES FOR WHICH I WOULD NOT STAY IN THIS ADMINISTRATION."

SOURCES WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED SAID INMAN HAD NOTIFIED THE PRESIDENT HE WOULD LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT AT THE END OF MAY TO TAKE A JOB IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON A SUCCESSOR TO THE 51-YEAR-OLD INMAN. TRADITIONALLY, ONE OF THE TOP TWO JOBS AT THE AGENCY GOES TO A CIVILIAN AND THE OTHER TO A MILITARY OFFICER.

UNLIKE CASEY, WHO WAS QUESTIONED LAST YEAR BY CONGRESS ABOUT HIS BUSINESS VENTURES, INMAN WAS A RELATIVELY NONCONTROVERSIAL FIGURE. "IF THERE WAS EVER THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB AT THE RIGHT TIME, THIS IS IT," SAID CHAIRMAN BARRY GOLDWATER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR WHEN INMAN WAS NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR. THE SENATE CONFIRMED INMAN 94-0.

HIS JOB BEFORE THAT WAS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, WHICH HANDLES THE SUPER-SECRET JOB OF BREAKING OTHER NATIONS' CODES AND LISTENING IN ON RADIO AND SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. INMAN ALSO IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. AP-NY-04-21 1757EST